

The Gainesville Sun.

Published Twice a Week--Monday and Thursday

OL. XXIV. NO. 99

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, MONDAY, JULY 10, 1905

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

WITH AN ENTHUSIASTIC DEMONSTRATION GAINESVILLE CELEBRATES HER VICTORY

Over the people of Gainesville a happy and enthusiastic it was Monday night and Friday, when the news came that this city had been successful in securing the location of the State University. This enthusiasm was not confined to any particular class, but was general, embracing male and female, white and colored, of all ages.

The information came about 12 o'clock Thursday night. It was in the shape of a telegram from Mayor W. Thomas, chairman of the committee, and bore the simple announcement:

"Gainesville wins the University by a vote of 6 to 4."

This message was brief, but it was sufficient to kindle the fire of enthusiasm in the heart of every living human in Gainesville, and it was surprising how quickly the news spread. In less than an hour the cannon was booming, the church bells were ringing, whistles were screaming, all of which told the people of the wonderful victory, accomplished after a long and faithful fight on the part of the citizens and the committee.

Report of Proceedings.

The following report from Tallahassee will prove of interest, since it gives a clear and concise insight into every movement of the board and those who were working for the location of the University:

It looked like a regular session of the Legislature when Governor Broward, chairman of the joint Boards of Control and of State Education, called the open meeting to order at 10 o'clock Thursday in the Hall of Representatives. Members of the two boards occupied seats in front of the rostrum, and nearly all of the seats within the bar were occupied by representatives of Gainesville and Lake City. The gallery outside the bar was occupied by interested listeners.

Governor Broward announced that the boards were ready to hear from the representatives of the two cities, candidates for the location of the University of the State of Florida. He suggested that if a plan had not already been adopted it would be well for the representatives of the two cities to agree upon opening and closing.

Hon. Robert McNamee, representing Gainesville, said that a plan for argument had already been agreed upon.

It was presumed that the burden of proof rested with Gainesville, and that Gainesville would open, in one and one-half hours, then two hours for Lake City, then half an hour for the closing argument in favor of Gainesville.

At this point Hon. W. A. Rawls of Tallahassee arose and asked if Tallahassee was to be shut out as a candidate.

Governor Broward said that the two boards did not know, or had not heard, that Tallahassee desired to present its claims, but if so the boards would be glad to hear argument.

Mr. Rawls then announced that Tallahassee's claims would be presented at the proper time.

McKinstry for Gainesville.

Dr. J. F. McKinstry of Gainesville, in a well prepared paper, presented his town's claim. Dr. McKinstry first stated why the University should be located at Gainesville. He spoke of its central location, its general educational spirit, its recognized moral environment, its progressive spirit in all things of a social, commercial and educational nature. He said that if the boards listened to the voice of the people of Florida the University would be located at Gainesville, for the reason that the great majority of the people of the State, school boards, county

commissioners and influential organizations, favored Gainesville.

At the conclusion of Dr. McKinstry's remarks he read the following:

Gainesville's Alternative Proposition.

"To the Honorable State Board of Education and the Board of Control: Gentlemen—In the event that the University of Florida is located at Gainesville, we, the undersigned, hereby bind and obligate ourselves to donate and deed in fee simple to the State Board of Education, for the use of said University, (1) five hundred acres of land adjoining the said city of Gainesville, and, in addition thereto, to donate and turn over to said board \$40,000 in cash; or (2) 320 acres of land, and, together with and in addition thereto, the 15 acres in East Gainesville, including the public school buildings and grounds; either the one or the other, as you may elect, and that the city of Gainesville will furnish water for the University without charge. And we further bind ourselves to give any guarantee you may require that, in the event the first proposition is accepted, to turn over to said Board of Control, free of charge, the use of the public school building of the said city of Gainesville, until such time as necessary new buildings have been completed.

"And we further bind ourselves to

provided the University be located there.

Rev. Carpenter Speaks.

Rev. W. J. Carpenter, representing the Board of Education of the Florida Conference, next addressed the members of the joint boards in advocacy of the locating of the University at Gainesville. He spoke generally of Gainesville's claim, dwelling particularly upon the surroundings and the educational atmosphere of the community. Mr. Carpenter referred to the good moral influences of Gainesville, enumerating the many religious organizations. For the purpose of presenting Gainesville's claim as to central location and general popularity, Mr. Carpenter displayed a map, showing which counties had indorsed Gainesville, through county commissioners and other organizations, and also to show Gainesville's advantages as to central location. Mr. Carpenter said that he had traveled in fifteen counties of South Florida, and that he found 90 per cent preference for Gainesville wherever he went. He said that South Florida was coming to the front in population and prominence. He read figures to prove that South Florida paid \$2 to \$1 compared with West Florida, excluding Duval and Escambia counties. He produced

appropriate enough to tide the proposed work over for two years. It was understood that the present buildings at Gainesville were not as desirable as would be buildings located just outside the city. To aid in this financial matter Gainesville offered relief by pledging to buy the State buildings located in the city for the sum of \$30,000.

Mr. Jones said that Gainesville had made a partial canvass of the State, and the answer had come back, "Give us Gainesville." Here he presented a large package of endorsements.

In closing Mr. Jones petitioned the board to consider well for environment, absence of faction and politics, and produce the best possible results. He asked them to look above commercialism and seek to obtain the improvement of manhood and of the elevating of good citizenship.

Mr. Jones exceeded his time, but the board extended the time allotted to each side to two and one-half hours. Mr. Jones' argument consumed all the time except forty minutes reserved for Hon. Robert McNamee to reply and close Gainesville's case.

Lake City's Champions.

Several prominent citizens of Lake City were present and presented their claims in a forceful and impressive manner, but evidently with insufficient

claimed and produced figures that the center of population, white and black, was nearer Gainesville than Lake City. He then discussed the needs and requirements. He argued that buildings and land must fall behind the needs and requirements of college environments, the expressing of the people, and the matter as a business proposition. Mr. McNamee then referred to the petitions and resolutions from all over the State, and also the views of the State press. He did not think that the question of locating the University should be left to a primary where it might be pulled and hauled about, but he did know that the senders of telegrams and the signing of resolutions was an honest sentiment coming from the people, and would there be considered. He claimed that an expression of the people was of great weight, and would be so considered by members of the boards. These people believe in equity and a school of the greatest benefit to their boys and girls.

Mr. McNamee wanted to know what South Florida was to get if all its institutions of instruction were wiped out after paying two-thirds the taxes. He wanted to know if West Florida or the cotton belt was to get anything. Was there not something to go to Gainesville, the educational center, as well as geographical center of the State. Lake City advocates Lake City as the location of its buildings. Buildings are not students. Mr. McNamee then touched upon the educational atmosphere and other qualifications of Gainesville. For instance, he said that the Gainesville school had been operated for more than fifty years with \$151,000, while in only two years the college and university at Lake City had expended \$881,000. Mr. McNamee then took up and discussed situated lands, buildings, equipment and other provisions. He contended that Gainesville offered the best situation, just outside the city, while in Lake City the situation was right in the city. He said that the board would have a beautiful piece of land, and with the \$40,000 from the city and the \$30,000 from the sale of the old buildings and land would give the board \$70,000, with enough to put the necessary buildings.

Meanwhile the present buildings could be used, as he not did think there would be more than 150 students during the first year.

Mr. McNamee suggested that the Deaf and Blind School be transferred to Lake City, as the buildings there, the chapel, the gymnasium and Foster hall would be exceedingly suitable for the blind and deaf.

Certified Checks.

At the conclusion of the argument Gainesville representatives delivered to the board certified checks to the amount of \$40,000 and deeds to 317 acres of land.

Lake City's representative delivered a certified check for \$40,000 and a guarantee of the delivery of the necessary deeds to the additional 371 acres of land. This closed the present session of claims of Gainesville and Lake City.

Executive Session.

In the evening at 8:30 o'clock the joint boards went into executive session, and just before the midnight hour the result was announced, the vote standing 6 to 4 in favor of Gainesville.

In coming to a decision upon the momentous question, there is no doubt that both boards considered first the interests of the whole State. With them it is not believed that mere location or the value of present buildings carried so much weight.

THE RETURN HOME.

Committee Met at Station by Enthusiastic Citizens—Exciting Time.

Enthusiasm was running high and

(Continued on Second Page.)

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS.

To the Press and People of the State of Florida—Greeting:

We desire, on behalf of the good people of the city of Gainesville, to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the press of the State for the free and generous manner in which it stood by our city in its effort to maintain supremacy as an educational center.

To the people who stood behind the press in its fealty to our city and its fair name, we owe a debt of gratitude that we can never repay, but will do our utmost to prove ourselves worthy in the years to come.

Without an unkind word to any we feel that a great victory has been won, and your hearty cooperation has made the victory possible.

A sacred trust has fallen to our city, and in all the varied changes of the coming years, in whatever position we may be called upon to act, we will ever hold next to Him on high, our duty to these institutions where the minds of our youth are to be moulded for the perpetuity of our State and the Nation.

That there has been no sacrifice of honor or trust to gain the object for which we strived, the people are well aware, and we shall prove in the years to come that there will be no betrayal of your confidence.

AGAIN WE THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU.

give any guarantee required that, in the event said University is located at Gainesville, the students of the same unable to secure accommodations at the barracks and dormitory shall be taken care of in the private houses of the city, at a rate not exceeding that charged by the State, until such time as the necessary buildings for their accommodation have been completed.

"In witness whereunto we hereby append our signatures this 3rd day of July, in the year of Our Lord nineteen hundred and five.

"W. R. THOMAS,
"J. F. MCKINSTRY, JR.,
"PERRY M. COLSON,
"A. M. CUSHMAN,
"JOHN E. DELL,
"GEO. M. LYNCH,
"S. H. WISGON,
"W. N. WILSON,
"C. A. COLCLOUGH,
"Committee."

Lake City's Proposition.

Lake City went Gainesville one better in their proposition, insofar as the acreage of land was concerned. The committee representing that city offered 320 acres of land and \$40,000 in cash, said land to be deeded to the State within three months from date,

figures to show that the State's money used at Gainesville had been most economically spent. During a certain period Gainesville had \$151,000, against upward of \$800,000 to Lake City. Mr. Carpenter's argument was Gainesville's general endorsement and advantages as against "gold and bricks and mortar."

Joseph H. Jones of Orlando.

Joseph H. Jones of Orlando followed in urging the claims of Gainesville. He prefaced his remarks with a supplementary proposition, guaranteeing the State of Florida the sum of \$30,000 for the State buildings at Gainesville, should the University be located there. Mr. Jones urged the claims of Gainesville, first as to location and accessibility, then as to health, then as to personnel of Gainesville. Mr. Jones then referred in eloquent words to the culture, educational spirit, tradition and loyalty.

Referring to the loyal spirit of the Gainesvilleites, Mr. Jones referred to the supplemental proposition offering \$30,000 for the State buildings at Gainesville. He said that this was brought about by a financial condition. He said that the State had failed to

force to convert the required majority of the board. Among those speakers were Hon. Frank Adams, A. B. Small, Chas. E. Davis and Judge Arch Henry.

W. A. Rawls, Hon. Fred T. Myers and Judge Raney spoke in favor of Tallahassee.

Col. McNamee Concludes.

The joint boards took a recess until 3 o'clock, when argument was resumed, Col. Robert McNamee of Tampa making the closing address in favor of Gainesville. Col. McNamee said, after a few remarks as to the meaning of the Buckman law, he would divest himself of his garb as a lawyer and address the boards as a citizen. He contended that the law did not contemplate that any one of the abolished institutions should remain where at present located. Under the provisions of the law, it might be located at Ocala, or any other place that might be selected by members of this joint board. He said, further, that the University could not be placed in Tallahassee, as it was not either centrally located nor was it the center of population. Mr. McNamee claimed that Gainesville was nearer the geographical center than Lake City. He also